(b) how the BSF is placed now to deal with the ingenuity of the adversaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Review of traning methodologies and their calibration are ongoing processes in BSF. This takes into account the threat perception and requirements of the Force as reflected in the feedback from troops, inspection reports and case studies of important operations and incidents.

(b) BSF is prepared to take on any challenge posed by the adversaries by maintaining strict vigil on borders, and keeping the personnel in top form through rigorous training programmes. To assist the Force in its border guarding role, Government have taken up various programmes and activities like establishment of new Border Outposts (BOP), erection of border fences, construction of border roads along IB, provision of border flood lights at certain places, floating BOPs in reverine areas, mobile observation posts and introduction of high tech equipment and devices.

Losses due to disasters

71. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every year the country is losing 2 per cent of its GDP in disasters;

(b) if so, whether Government are thinking of having a disaster management policy to turn disasters into opportunities; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposed policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) According to a World Bank study published in August 2003, a rough assessment indicated that direct natural disaster losses in India equated to up to 2% of India's GDP.

(b) and (c) The Government have introduced the Disaster Management Bill, 2005 in the Rajya Sabha on 11th May, 2005. The Bill provides for requisite institutional and coordination mechanisms to be put in place at National, State, District and Local level. The National Disaster Management Authority has been constituted with the Prime Minister as Chairperson to

lay down plans and policies for disaster management and coordinate its enforcement.

Operational difficulties faced by BSF due to lack of women battalions

72. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that BSF is facing operational difficulties in militancy infested and border areas due to absence of women's battalions;

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) what is the time-frame to overcome these operational difficulties by BSF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) No Sir. Wherever projected by BSF, Mahila Home Guards have been provided.

(c) Does not arise.

Corruption in jails

73. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain officials of Tihar prison in Delhi have been dismissed after they were exposed taking illegal gratification;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that corruption in jails is eliminated and only above board officials are posted in prisons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A news channel "Aaj Tak" in its telecast on 4th and 5th May, 2005 showed certain Prison staff accepting money as illegal gratification as consideration for extending certain unauthorized facilities to various prisoners. Initially, the concerned staff were placed under suspension and criminal cases registered under the